

Israelis attack Tyre camp

TYRE (AP) — Israeli gunboats, helicopter gunships and long-range artillery blasted a Palestinian refugee camp near the southern port city Tuesday and police said the shelling was on fire. The bombardment of Rashidieh came hours after rebels unleashed a barrage of Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets against an Israeli-controlled border enclave in South Lebanon (see page 2). Police in Tyre said helicopters strafed Rashidieh under parachute flares after a 20-minute bombardment by several gunboats and Howitzer batteries poised along the border. Police said fires raged in several sectors of the camp on the southern outskirts of the city, 20 kilometres north of the Israeli frontier and 60 kilometres south of Beirut. "We believe there are many casualties, both killed and wounded, but we do not have a specific breakdown yet," said a spokesman. He said the Israeli bombardment began at 8 p.m. (1500 GMT) and was still underway 45 minutes later. Rashidieh, home for more than 18,000 U.N.-registered refugees, is a key stronghold of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Jordan Times

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400,000 Gulf war refugees seen

BRUSSELS (R) — The United Nations and other relief bodies are getting ready to cope with a wave of up to 400,000 refugees from Iraq, a top U.N. official said Tuesday. U.N. Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Douglas Stafford said aid agencies were preparing facilities for 100,000 refugees each in four countries neighbouring Iraq. "I hope that by the middle of next week we will have camps, water and food for 35,000 people in Iran, 40,000 in Jordan, 25,000 in Syria and 20,000 in Turkey." Mr. Stafford told a news conference at a seminar on European Community (EC) refugee policy. Sergio Vieira de Mello, external relations director to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), noted however that fewer than 10,000 people, mostly Egyptians, had left Iraq since the U.S.-led coalition began military action on Jan. 17.

Planes pound Iraq; Baghdad says allied PoW killed

Saddam raises prospect of nuclear, chemical and biological strikes

Iraqi president raises war stakes

IRAQI PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein has warned that his country's missiles could carry chemical, biological or nuclear warheads, and suggested Baghdad might use unconventional weapons against the allies, according to an interview.

Correspondent Peter Arnett of the American Cable News Network (CNN) said he asked President Saddam during a 90-minute Monday interview whether he would reject the use of chemical weapons if the U.S.-led allies also remained from them.

"I don't mean that," Arnett quoted President Saddam as saying. "Iraq will use weapons that equate the weapons used against us."

"He said missiles fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia, which he proudly called Al Hussein missiles... had nuclear, chemical and biological capability," Arnett said.

Arnett did not say in his telephone account of the interview from Baghdad whether President Saddam had stated categorically whether Iraq has nuclear warheads.

Iraq is known to have developed chemical and biological weapons, but some Western analysts believe the long-range but low-payload missiles cannot carry non-conventional warheads.

The missiles that have rained down on Israel and Saudi Arabia have all carried conventional explosive warheads.

Some analysts believe Iraq was close to developing nuclear weapons, but allied military officials claimed most of Iraq's nuclear research and development facilities were damaged or destroyed in the allied air raids that began Jan. 17.

"The sense I got from the interview was that President Saddam Hussein was saying that he has been able to maintain the balance of the war using conventional weapons as of this point," said Arnett.

"He was suggesting, though, that as losses became too great he

may be obliged to use the unconventional weapons that he has at his disposal."

Baghdad's "Mother of Battles Radio" broadcast a similarly ominous threat of "strategic weapons," without specifying what these weapons were.

"What will emerge from these days when these weapons are used is more tragic days for the allied forces who began the aggression than lost control of it," said the radio.

The radio Tuesday accused U.S. President George Bush of being immoral and a liar.

"Bush, your crimes will not pass without a deterrent punishment to you and the likes of your Zionists," said the radio.

The radio said 50 Israeli planes headed from Saudi Arabia Monday morning. Iraq said that Israel was assisting in the war against Iraq, a charge denied by both Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Arnett, one of the few Western correspondents left in Baghdad, said the interview took place in a bungalow in Baghdad. Arnett's reports are screened by Iraqi military censors.

President Saddam said the allies had been the first to use oil as a weapon by attacking Iraqi oil facilities.

Iraq's use of oil as a weapon was said.

The allies have accused Iraq of causing an ecological disaster by pumping about 11 million barrels of oil into the northern Gulf. U.S. aircraft bombed pumping equipment at the weekend, staunching the flow of crude.

Asked about Iraqi aircraft which have flown to Iran, President Saddam said Baghdad and Tehran had similar views on the war, seeing it as a battle "between faith and infidel."

Allied sources say up to 100 Iraqi aircraft, including some of Iraq's most sophisticated warplanes, have flown to Iran over the last few days.

Iraq, which has declared neutrality in the war, has said it will impound the planes until the end of hostilities.

King: Arab Nation at a crucial phase;



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday chairs a meeting of the cabinet (Petra photo)

Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, earlier Tuesday visited the third and the fifth royal armoured divisions where he was received by the

divisions' commanders and senior officers and briefed on the duties assigned to the various divisions' formations.

The King voiced satisfaction

with the high morale of the divisions' personnel and lauded their continuing efforts to defend the homeland.

Somalia gets new president

NAIROBI (Agencies) — Somalia rebels named a new president

Tuesday as fighting erupted anew in the capital of Mogadishu, just days after the rebels deposed the nation's former leader and claimed to have seized control.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the gunfire, but sources said it appeared not to be a continuation of the celebratory shooting that has erupted periodically since the rebels claimed to have taken over Saturday night.

The whereabouts of deposed President Mohammad Siad Barre, a former military commander about 80 years old, remained undetermined.

A Kenyan pilot, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said military authorities in the southern town of Kisimayu had told him Mr. Siad Barre and about 100 others headed by road Monday towards Kenya.

Kenya has offered the deposed leader safe passage to a third country.

In another report, the government-run Kenya Times newspaper said local supporters had arranged to airlift Mr. Siad Barre from Kisimayu to Kenya.

The rebel United Somali Congress (USC) rebels announced the appointment of Ali Mahdi Mohammad as Somalia's new president effective Monday.

An army statement said no U.S.-made Patriot missiles were fired to intercept the Scud since the missile came in "at an angle that was outside the effective range" on the Patriots. It did not elaborate.

Defense ministry spokesman Dan Niven said he hoped the Palestinians would do some "soul searching" about their support for Iraq, which he denounced as a "regrettable and miserable thing."

The leadership of the three-year Palestinian uprising issued a statement expressing "our pain at the bombing of civilians, wherever they are."

But it called the Gulf conflict an "American-Atlantic-Zionist war of aggression," and urged an international peace conference to deal with the Gulf situation and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Israel and the United States have rejected any linkage between the two conflicts.

In Deir Ballut, Amin Zaidi, whose house is about 500 metres from where the missile hit, said the villagers were very frightened and confused by the blast.

"The missile doesn't understand if it's an Arab village or a Jewish village. Wherever it falls it takes all the people, all the buildings — everything goes," he said. "Saddam, if he threw it, does he know where it's going? He doesn't know."

Iran 'surprised' by flood Iraqi planes

Combined agency dispatches

IRAN SAID Tuesday it was surprised when waves of Iraqi fighter planes crossed its frontier over the weekend in one of the biggest shocks of the Gulf war. And the United States was it was prepared to attack any Iraqi planes that try to rejoin the Gulf war.

Hassan Rohani, spokesman of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iraq, faced with the allied forces' superior technology in air warfare, probably wanted to preserve its planes for use in a possible ground offensive.

Iran says the planes will be held until the Gulf war ends.

Military sources in Britain said Monday about 100 Iraqi planes, including top-notch fighters and bombers, had gone to Iran since the war began Jan. 17.

Iran's United Nations ambassador said Tehran, neutral in the war between Iraq and U.S.-led multinational forces, had protested to Baghdad over the aircraft's arrival.

The U.S. government said that its military was prepared to attack any Iraqi planes that try to rejoin the Gulf war from Iran and increased to 100 its own estimate of the number of Iraqi planes in Iran.

"Iran has said they were neutral. We would try to hold them to that," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

He declared the U.S. military knows where the Iraqi planes are. "They watched them go in," he said. "They'll attack them when they come out."

Mr. Fitzwater dismissed as "the same old propaganda" Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's comments from a Monday interview with Cable News Network in Bagh-

dad.

Experts say they have a combat range of up to 1,300 kilometres when loaded with weapons, known for their ability to carry air-to-surface missiles.

Israel had been concerned that the planes could be used to attack the Jewish State.

The first plane which attempted to touch down veered off the tarmac, somersaulted and caught fire. Others were also damaged," Mr. Rohani said.

Iran has so far said 13 Iraqi planes have tried to land in Iran. Three crashed, two others were damaged and one pilot has been confirmed dead.

Mr. Rohani said Iraq could not switch on its ground radars because they would immediately be detected and destroyed by the U.S.-led forces' advanced air-to-ground missiles.

"The Iraqis don't want to be active in the air war at least for the time being. Maybe they are waiting for a ground war before using their air capabilities," he said.

Iran's U.N. Ambassador Kamal Karrazi told Tehran Radio in an interview from New York that he told U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Iran was confiscating the aircraft until the end of hostilities.

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Gulf oil slick — pollution problem of the century

By Mariam M. Shahin
with agency dispatches

equilibrium of all the air, water and land that it touches.

The smaller slick, which originated from shell-shattered storage tanks at the Saudi town of Khafji close to the Kuwaiti border on Jan. 17, had reached Ra's es-Sannaqib peninsula just south of Saudi Arabia's Safaniyah field, the world's largest offshore oil field, by Tuesday and was expected to arrive at the port of Jubail Friday.

Environmental experts in Jordan and around the world say that all forms of life possibly as Far East as Asia and maybe even further could be affected by the slick and the consequences of an oil blaze.

If current meteorological conditions prevail then the north-east winds could literally blow the soot and smoke far

and beyond Iran into Asia, where the polluted air could permanently affect the health of millions of people," said associate professor at the University of Jordan Fuad Hashim.

Iranians, at Bushir 320 kilometres away, have already complained of oil-tainted rain drops which resulted from the burning of (Kuwait's) Wafra oil fields," Dr. Hashim pointed out.

Saudi officials continue to insist that their shores are protected and that calm waters were helping anti-pollution teams which are cleaning the waters, but some environmental experts say differently.

"If the oil flow continues

some Saudi desalination plants at Jubail may have to be shut,"

Western airman said killed in air strike

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ SAID Tuesday that allied prisoners were hit and one was killed in U.S.-led attacks on Baghdad, where captured airmen reportedly are held as deterrent against attacks.

The Iranian news agency quoted Baghdad Radio as saying that the pilot killed in the attacks Monday was an American. But none of the Iraqi broadcasts monitored in Nicosia mentioned the nationalities or identities of any of the alleged victims.

Also Tuesday, Baghdad said its forces thrust into Saudi Arabia and engaged troops there in "lightning" battles 15 and 20 kilometres south of border. The military command reported that "large numbers of the bastards" were killed.

U.S. military sources said allied warplanes blasted an Iraqi military convoy that was spotted moving across the open desert Monday night.

They reported 24 Iraqi vehicles, including tanks, destroyed.

The Iraqis also said the ground action occurred Monday night and it appeared that the reports were determinant accounts of the same incident.

Reporting on the PoW who reportedly was killed by his own side, the official media said:

(Continued on page 4)

Chevenement quits in protest over war

PARIS (Agencies) — Embattled French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement, under fire for not taking a strong stand on the Gulf war, resigned Tuesday, saying the fighting risked compromising United Nations' objectives.

Mr. Chevenement, who had served in the post since 1988, was immediately replaced by Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, presidential spokesman Hubert Vedrine said.

The defence minister's resignation appeared inevitable, but he had been widely expected to stay on until the Gulf fighting ended.

The resignation came hours after French warplanes carried out two bombing raids in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr. Chevenement, known for speaking his mind, had sparked increasing criticism because of what was perceived as his weak position towards the Gulf war.

Less than a week into the war, Mr. Chevenement said French involvement would be limited to attacking targets in Kuwait, provoking charges that France was not committed to the multilateral military effort against Iraq.

In his resignation letter, Mr. Chevenement wrote, "A certain idea of the republic leads me to ask you to discharge me of the functions for which I was an honour for me to carry out."

But he repeated his belief that France's mission should be the liberation of Kuwait, as specified by United Nations Security Council resolutions, and not the

destruction of Iraq.

"I add that the logic of war every day risks distancing us from the objectives fixed by the United Nations," he wrote.

Chevenement abruptly cancelled a news conference he had planned for Tuesday morning because of "overbearing necessities," the Defence Ministry had announced earlier.

President Francois Mitterrand moved quickly to stand by his old friend, but he also made clear that French forces could attack targets in Iraq, as they did for the first time last Thursday.

Mr. Chevenement's role as a founding member of the Franco-Iraqi Friendship Society led critics to charge that his ties to Iraq conflicted with French interests. Several lawmakers had demanded that he resign.

Before resigning, Mr. Chevenement had tried to parry the criticism. "At a moment when our soldiers are engaged, France must not make war with itself," he had said.

Alain Juppe, secretary-general of the conservative opposition party Rally for the Republic, said Mr. Chevenement's resignation was entirely in order.

(Continued on page 5)

one environmental expert said Tuesday. Riyadhat Saudi Arabia was against using chemical dispersants because they were harmful to the environment. He made no comment about the bombing Saturday of outlet pipes at oil storage tanks in Al Ahmadi by American F-111 bombers and the possible "environmental harm" of such bombings.

Qatar and the UAE, fearing that the oil spill will affect their waters,

2 Middle East News

Iraq says 320 killed, 400 wounded in 6 days

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq has said that the United States and its allies in the Gulf coalition killed more than 320 people and wounded nearly 400 others in the first six days of bombing.

Iraq, in a letter to the United Nations, said the allies attacked civilian, economic and religious targets.

The highest number of civilian casualties occurred on Jan. 21 when 144 people allegedly were killed and 24 wounded in the bombing of residential neighbourhoods in the sacred Shi'ite Muslim cities of Najaf and Kufa about 140 kilometres south of Baghdad, the letter said.

Iraqi diplomats said the numbers represented only a small fraction of the total casualties, which have not been disclosed. The letter cited 74 attacks which took place from Jan. 17, when the war began, up to Jan. 22.

The United States and its allies say 25,000 sorties have been flown in the bombardment of Iraqi military and strategic targets. They emphasise that strict precautions have been taken to avoid civilian casualties and say that places of worship have not been bombed.

But they acknowledge that some civilian casualties are inevitable and say that some Iraqi military targets are camouflaged as innocuous civilian installations.

Reporters in Baghdad have generally said that few civilian areas suffered major damage.

The letter, from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, blames him personally as well as the Security Council, which authorised an attack to expel Iraq from Kuwait.

The letter said the raids against "civilian, economic, humanitarian, medical, cultural and religious targets," was proof that vengeance was the motive behind the bombing.

The letter said Washington and its allies wanted revenge because of Iraq's independent policies.

The accounts indicated that in

the opening days of the war U.S. and allied bombing was most severe in Iraq's Najaf region near Saudi Arabia.

It said that in the biggest single casualty toll on Jan. 21, four days after the bombing started, 130 civilians were killed in Najaf, one of the largest Iraqi towns close to the Saudi border.

"Agglomerations (groups) of nomadic bedouin bombed in the Huwaymal area near Umm Tayyarah; 20 killed including 12 children and five women," a report from the Najaf region said.

The letter indicated that although bombing caused damage in Baghdad, casualties were not as high in the capital as some military experts forecast.

It listed a total of only eight civilians killed and 12 wounded in the first two days of the bombing of Baghdad.

Sites in the capital that were damaged by the bombing included the country's main museum with valuable Babylonian archaeological artifacts, the city's major sports stadium, a large post office, several factories, a main downtown avenue and a restaurant.

The letter said the allied air forces used "missiles," "cluster bombs," "time-delay bombs" and "spherical bombs."

Many of the reports mentioned women and children killed in the raids. U.S. and allied statements have said that only military sites were the targets of bombing.

Residential centres bombed in the Bubali area; four children and two women killed; 16 other citizens wounded including six women and five children," the letter said in describing an attack east of Baghdad near the Iranian border.

It said not even trains were safe near the Iranian border.

Air attack on a train travelling from Baghdad to Basra; three killed and 21 wounded," another entry said.

Parts of the letter were released in Baghdad Sunday holding Mr. Perez de Cuellar personally, "responsible for indiscriminate and deliberate bombing."

PNC deputy speaker said killed

AMMAN (AP) — Refiq Shafiq Kiblawi, the assistant deputy speaker of the Palestinian National Council (PNC), was assassinated in Kuwait Tuesday, a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official reported.

Salim Zaanoun, the PNC's deputy speaker, said Mr. Kiblawi was shot as he was leaving his house in Kuwait by gunmen who fled in a Volkswagen car.

Mr. Zaanoun said there was no immediate indication who was responsible for the attack against his deputy in the PNC.

It was the second assassination of top Palestinian leaders this month.

On Jan. 16, a renegade bodyguard in Tunis killed Salam Khalaf, the second in command to PLO leader Yasser Arafat, and Hayel Abd Hamid, the PLO's security chief.

Mr. Zaanoun also said he would visit Baghdad next weekend to coordinate with the Iraqi parliament on rallying support for Iraq in the war launched by the U.S.-led multinational force on Jan. 17.

Mr. Zaanoun said the PNC and the Iraqi parliament will join forces during the pan-Arab parliamentary meeting in Algiers on Feb. 1.

He added that the parliamentary meeting will be discussing Gulf developments, and the PNC and Iraqi delegations will try to persuade parliamentarians from those Arab states participating in the multinational force to withdraw their troops.

Kuwait bristles with guns, Iraqis well dug in — refugee

By Paul Holmes
Reuter

RUWEISHED — Kuwait was bristling with anti-aircraft guns and Iraqi soldiers there were well entrenched in preparation for an allied attack, a Jordanian who left the emirate last week said Tuesday.

"Right now, everything has come to a standstill in Kuwait. The (Iraqi) army is distributing food and flour and meat from vans," 54-year-old civil servant Mahmoud Hassan said at this Jordanian border post.

He said he doubted whether the allies could win a ground war, "the Iraqis are so well entrenched."

Jordanian Nidal Kafiyah, a 27-year-old accountant who also left Kuwait last week, said food and water were still available there but petrol for civilians was running low.

He said allied air attacks had hit mainly military installations, but he believed there might have been civilian casualties because Kuwait City was so small.

Military installations and Iraqi forces in Kuwait had come under repeated attack since the Gulf war broke out on Jan. 17.

Mr. Kafiyah was among a trickle of refugees who crossed into Jordan from Iraq Tuesday.

Some 500 Egyptians remain

trapped in the freezing desert without proper food or shelter on the Iraqi side. Iraq has insisted they return to Baghdad for exit visas, but travellers crossing the frontier said they lacked money or petrol to reach the Iraqi capital.

Iraq has allowed refugees of other nationalities to cross the border without exit visas.

Border officials said about 800 refugees, most of them Sudanese, had spent the night at a Red Cross transit camp near Ruweished. Buses would ferry them to another camp at Azraq, 80 km northeast of Amman, to await air transport.

Mr. Hassan said he was among 24 people, mainly Jordanians, injured Sunday when the bus they were travelling in overturned into a ditch on an allied air raid on the road to the border through western Iraq.

He said they were taken to a hospital at Al Rutbah, a small desert town about 120 km from the border.

"We saw a ball of fire in the distance and then we got hit," he said. He had cuts to his hand and chest.

A number of travellers have reported allied attacks on the highway between Ruthbah and the Iraqi border post at Trebeel. Mr. Hassan said the allies appeared to be aiming at bridges.

The spokesman said the PLO chairman had given no instructions to open a front against Israel from Lebanon.

YESTERDAY'S HIGH TEMPERATURES: Amman 13, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 62 per cent, Aqaba 42 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er 791405

Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 657009

Dr. Wa'el Dumati 774800

Dr. Mohammad Al Shawish 658878

Firas Pharmacy 661912

Ferdous Pharmacy 778336

Al Asmae Pharmacy 637055

Min./max. temp.
Amman 3 / 10
Aqaba 8 / 18
Deserts 2 / 11
Jordan Valley 9 / 17

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 893690

Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality

Repair 623101
Abdali Telephonic Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

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Jordan Electricity Authority 81

Home News

Ministry plans campaign on pockets of poverty

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development will shortly embark on measures to rid the streets of beggars and help those who are really in need by offering them facilities to start a new life, according to Social Development Minister Yousef Al Athem.

The minister said that the campaign, which would be carried out in Amman and other towns in cooperation with the Public Security Department, entails collecting the beggars and homeless people as a first step to be followed by a classification programme with the help of specialists and social workers.

The minister said that each individual case will be studied alone to find out about whether the beggar can be rehabilitated and given a chance to earn their own living or whether they re-

quire continued assistance on a permanent basis because they are really unable to work. The Ministry of Social Development also plans to appoint special social workers to help the beggars and will instruct the National Aid Fund to provide financial assistance to them.

Those who are able to work will be offered training in a number of fields and, according to the minister, the beggars would receive loans to help them start a business. He said JD 20 to JD 40 a month would be offered specially for widows and orphans, and between JD 70 and JD 100 for emergency situations like accidents resulting in tragedies to families plus a card for free health services at hospitals and health centres.

Qatanani counters Israeli restrictions on travel to W. Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israel is imposing restrictions on Palestinians crossing from Jordan to the occupied Arab territories and the government is lodging a protest with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to help restore normal traffic at the bridges across the River Jordan.

Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs told the Jordan Times that normally 500 to 600 persons were allowed to cross the bridges a day during the winter season but only 50 were now allowed to cross by the Israeli authorities.

So far, the government has contacted the U.N. and the ICRC which replied that the Israelis were taking the measure in view of the blanket curfew imposed on the West Bank because of the Gulf war.

Qatanani argued that as long as the 50 or so people are allowed to cross, how can they make it home under the curfew regulations?

Qatanani said that the govern-



Ahmad Qatanani

ment is now formally addressing the concerned organisations, through diplomatic channels, to help the Palestinians, many of whom had fled Kuwait and Iraq, to go home.

He said that in the summer months about 2,000 people a day normally cross the King Hussein Bridge on their way to the West Bank, and 1,200 cross via the Prince Mohammad Bridge.

Intellectuals heighten protests against U.S., France over Gulf

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian graduates of French universities and other educational institutions in France have condemned ongoing aggression on Iraq as designed to devastate the Arab country and demanded that France end its involvement in the war.

Representatives of the graduates, who included members of parliament, university professors, doctors, engineers, lawyers, writers and artists, called on the French ambassador to Jordan, Denis Bouchard, and handed him a note of protest demanding that France act immediately to put a stop to the war and to help re-activate a dialogue to establish permanent and just peace in the Middle East taking into consideration all resolutions adopted by the United Nations organisations concerning all problems of the region, including the Palestine issue.

In their note, the graduates said that the aggression seems aimed at destroying Iraq under the pretext of applying U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Any future negotiations to end the conflict should include the question of banning and removing all nuclear and chemical weapons from all the countries of the region including Israel, whose denial of nuclear weapons constitutes the gravest danger to the peoples of the region, said the note.

In their note to the ambassador, to be relayed to the French government, the graduates underlined the depth of the Franco-Arab friendship tie and pressed hope that France will not remain involved in the war.

The note voiced hope that it would resume its diplomatic efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problem and to add its weight to those of European peace-loving groups.

The Jordanian Writers Asso-

ciation (JWA), Monday issued a statement describing the continued allied air raids on Iraq as aimed at destroying all the Iraqi people's achievements in conformity with the aims and aspirations of the Zionist and imperialist designs.

The Americans who are bragging about introducing a new world order are now intent on changing the map of the Middle East with the purpose of consolidating the U.S. hold over the natural resources and the oil wealth in the region and of giving Israel domination over the Arab Nation's destiny, said the statement.

The statement affirmed that it was not reasonable or acceptable to see Iraq facing this onslaught by itself. The association urged all Arab states to help Iraq face the aggression because it was a war between the Zionist and the imperialists on one hand and the Arab people on the other.

The association also called on various professional groupings in Jordan and the Arab World to actively join in the efforts to defend Iraq specially in the media and information services.

Another organisation, the National Association of Children's Education in Jordan, issued a statement denouncing the aggression on Iraq as a war of genocide against the Iraqi children who were deprived of food and medicine and exposed to constant hunger because of the air raids.

The statement appealed to nations of the world and peace organisations to help or provide protection to these children.

In Irbid, Yarmouk University students Monday staged a demonstration in a show of protest against the aggression on Iraq. A number of speakers, who addressed the marchers, called on Arab and Islamic countries to help Iraq confront the aggressors.

Amra Hotel provides shelter

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amra Forum Hotel has offered to shelter over 100 neighbouring families. In a circular sent to the families, the hotel said it has established an underground shelter that would accommodate 300 people.

The hotel added that the shelter was supplied with blankets, food and beverages as well as first aid kits which would suffice for at least two months.

The Amra Forum Hotel, which is a 100 per cent government-owned and managed by Inter-Continental Hotels Group advised all concerned that the shelter and all other facilities would be free of charge, in case any emergency arises.

Minister of youth outlines duties of clubs, centres

ZARQA (Petra) — Culture and Youth Minister Khalid Al Karaki Tuesday stressed the role of youth as a basic backup for the armed forces in defending the homeland.

In a meeting with heads of sports and youth clubs in Zarqa governorate, Karaki called for countering rumours and for avoiding stockpiling of food supplies that harm the national economy and damage the people's interests.

The minister said that the ministry was currently cooperating with the Ministry of Health, and the Civil Defence Department to supply clubs and youth centres with the necessary equipment to face any emergency.

Karaki pointed out that the ministry would distribute the

clubs' allocations according to their functions and achievements. He noted that the ministry has allocated JD 350,000 for clubs and centres.

The minister underlined the importance of merging clubs and centres to highlight and enhance their activities. The minister said his ministry was currently supervising 246 clubs and 41 youth centres.

The minister heard a briefing by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobak on the situation of clubs, their requirements and the need to establish a sport city in Zarqa.

A number of deputies attending the meeting, reviewed the problems facing clubs, including conditions governing elections and membership.

Government replies to deputies' queries today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament is due to convene Wednesday evening in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members to hear government replies to queries presented by deputies on a host of issues related to agriculture and services.

A statement here said that the water strategy in Jordan would come under scrutiny and amendments to a number of laws will be debated.

A new member to the bloc is Ibrahim Al Ghabsheh who had also served previously as minister of youth.



Tuesday Sawt Al Shaab published the above photocopy of a U.S. dollar carrying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's photo in a gesture of wide American public support for the Iraqi President in his defensive war against the American-led alliance. The photocopy was sent to Jordan by mail.

According to another parliament statement, the House's National Bloc Tuesday elected Abdullah Ensour to serve as the bloc's official spokesman on all matters. The bloc now groups Qaseem Obeidat and Abdul Karim Al Kabriti who had resigned from the government, but continue to serve as parliament members.

A new member to the bloc is Ibrahim Al Ghabsheh who had also served previously as minister of youth.

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Jordan Times

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Straight man quits

WHAT WAS supposed to happen six months ago finally happened yesterday. French Defence Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement resigned his job in a climax to his thinly-veiled conflict with President Francois Mitterrand over the Gulf crisis.

In French politics, when a minister insists, as Chevenement has done over the past half year, that he would never resign nor even think of doing so, it usually means that that minister would step down soon. Every denial of disagreement with Mitterrand by Chevenement sounded like a reluctantly executed duty, since it was always contradicted by statements French leaders made afterwards.

Since 1984, Chevenement has been a founding member of the Iraq-French Friendship Association. Under pressure from his government over the Gulf crisis, he consistently declared that his membership was purely theoretical, even though he would not quit the association.

The troubles between the French president and his minister surfaced on Aug. 21, when a high government official, who nobody doubted was Chevenement himself, declared to the French news agency that he was "deeply worried by a possible attack against Iraq." From that time on, statements by both Mitterrand and Chevenement could not but confirm the rift between the two. In the early days of September the minister told French radio that "one should not let one's self to be pushed forward by irresponsible ideas," adding that a shooting war in the Gulf would entail unacceptable heavy loss of life.

Soon afterwards, the president, as if to muzzle the minister, came out in the open to say that he himself made the military decisions, and the spokesman on foreign affairs was his good friend Roland Dumas, in effect ignoring Chevenement's role in the whole conflict.

Since then, the relationship between the two men became tense. Chevenement has always been one of the very few leaders of Mitterrand's Socialist Party who did not shrink from saying his mind just for the sake of keeping his job. Furthermore, he is one of those well-known French nationalists who fought against both going too far towards European unification and allegiance to the U.S., especially in defense matters. As the rightist president of the French senate's defense committee, Jean Lecanuet, once put it: "Chevenement is the de Gaulle of the Socialist Party." And as such he stood strong for France's independence and strength, regardless of his own political interests, and for keeping good and sound relations with the Arab World as a whole.

Chevenement might have entertained the hope that he could make his president stick to the French initiative of Sept. 24. He tried hard to stop Mitterrand from progressively switching from his peace strategy to full involvement in war efforts against Iraq. Evidently he failed.

The straw that broke the council's back, however, was that dramatic episode in which the defence minister had insisted that France was fighting to liberate Kuwait and not to destroy Iraq, only to retract his statement later, obviously under immense pressure from the president.

Chevenement was a minister who clearly preferred diplomacy to war, negotiations to fighting. Since France chose to support the wrong option, he could do nothing but resign. He is as straight and honest as straight and honest men come.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN ITS editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i Arabic daily noted that Jordan had been under severe pressure from the U.S.-led coalition to persuade it to step in line with those launching aggression on Iraq. The paper said that once the diplomatic pressure failed, the Kingdom was subjected to an embargo by land, air and sea in an unprecedented manner, but without achieving its objective. The Jordanian people and leadership have bravely withheld all pressures and inhuman treatment, and refused to betray their brothers in Iraq and commit shameful acts like other Arab countries, said the paper. Those who have called for this aggression on Iraq, or those who took part in the attacks on the Iraqi people are bound to face defeat while Jordan and the other honourable Arab states enjoy the appreciation and support of the peace-loving nations for their continued drive to achieve peace in the Gulf, and for shunning any rash actions, the paper continued. Jordan has refused any bribes which went to a number of Arab countries, and has not sold its honour or its sense of national belonging despite the pressures and the unjustified punishment to which it has been subjected, the paper added. It said that the aggressors who have received the first phase of defeat represented in Iraq's steadfastness, are bound to be dealt a final defeat by the steadfast Iraqi armed forces.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily draws a contrast between Iraq's treatment of the foreign nationals held in Iraq just before the outbreak of hostilities and that accorded to Iraqi and Arab nationals by the so-called Western democracies. Jumaa Hanoun draws attention to the plight of the Iraqi students, sick persons and businessmen who were in Britain at the start of the war and have been regarded as war prisoners by the British government. Some of these persons have acquired British or American citizenship long before the Gulf crisis erupted, but still they are being treated as war criminals, the writer points out. He says while the Western nations held in Iraq enjoyed luxurious life in five star hotels, the Iraqis in Britain are being interrogated like prisoners of war and kept in isolation from the rest of society and treated in an inhuman manner. The world public opinion which reacted angrily at the detention of foreign nationals in Baghdad is now totally muted, and does not show any sign of protest against Britain's inhuman treatment of the Iraqi nationals, notes the writer. He says Britain is openly and flagrantly exercising a racist policy in violation of all international laws, giving a clear sign of the so-called new world order orchestrated by the United States, Britain's ally in the aggression on Iraq.

A test of South's will of independence

By Sadeq Khan

WHAT is happening right now in the Middle East is not exactly a conventional war, but a dress rehearsal of mutual capacity for destruction. American President George Bush may experience sadistic glee at what he describes as "kicking the ass" of another president, Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The brutal, paradoxically, is being borne by innocent civilians in so many historic cities and religious centres of the Middle East, by deliberate decision on the part of the American-led coalition and by corresponding retaliation on the part of Iraq. The war machines on both sides have virtually remained disengaged and unharmed. What a mockery of solemn oaths of the Geneva Convention for human rights and civilian protection by the U.N. approved application of force!

The United Nations is supposed to be a vehicle of peace. In all cases of regional outbreak of war in the past, the U.N. called for cessation of hostilities first and withdrawals later. Even during the Korean war which was fought at the instance of a U.N. resolution, not unanimously subscribed to like the current one, cessation of hostilities was preferred after a seesaw of attacks and counterattacks, so as to contain further human losses and destruction and to negotiate withdrawals on both sides behind a neutral landline of disengagement.

In the Gulf dispute, the United Nations is saying for the first time: withdraw first, unconditionally, and then submit your grievances for negotiation.

Why? Because, the raw nerve of U.S. authority has been touched by a Third World power by eviction of one of its surrogates. After the debacle of the cold war and dismantling of the iron curtain, the other superpower, Soviet Union, has concealed that the Middle East is an American sphere of influence. Old changing trends of bipolar world alignment by subversive competition and contest of strength between the two superpowers are now replaced by limitations agreed between them of respective zones of security interest and grey areas of dominance by mutual understanding. That is the new world order they are talking about. In this, they consulted and took into confidence to a limited extent the Europeans, Turkey, Japan and China. The Middle East was not consulted, nor were the troubles created by colonial inheritance in the Middle East attended to. In the new context of superpower understanding and acquiescence of Europe, China and, and the U.S. sought to set its neo-colonial noose firmly around the Middle East region by boosting Israeli power on the Mediterranean side and introducing its own military presence on the Gulf side. Saddam Hus-

sain simply preempted the U.S. design by eliminating active subversion of his economy by the Kuwaiti fifth column within Arab ranks. As the AFP (French News Agency) summary of 1990 on the Gulf crisis notes:

"The Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait was the culmination of a process through which the Iraqi leader transformed his country from an Arab ally of the West (in so far as it was) opposed to the spread of Muslim fundamentalism, into a sworn enemy of the United States."

The alarm was sounded in February when President Hussein voiced opposition to U.S. plans to maintain a military presence in the Gulf despite the lowering of regional tension after the August 1988 truce between Iran and Iraq.

The Washington Post newspaper had reported that the U.S. forces were drafting plans for the defence of Saudi oilfields and other Gulf states against unspecified aggression.

After the end of Gulf war with Iran, the conservative oil-rich monarchies of the region feared Iraq's rising military power. Amid strains with the West over the alleged smuggling to Iraq of nuclear technology and other sophisticated arms, including a supergun, the Iraqi leader sought to assert himself as champion of the Palestinian cause."

The author is a writer from Bangladesh who left Iraq for Jordan on Jan. 21. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Baghdad in the eyes of reporters

By Abner Katzman

The Associated Press

NICOSIA — Food is still available in Baghdad, but electricity and running water are scarce because of U.S.-led air raids that Iraq says have hit civilian areas, reporters in Iraq have said.

Canadian Press correspondent Leila Deeb, a Jordanian, toured damaged areas Saturday, including a private home reduced to rubble.

Deeb quoted Mohammad Al Habboubi, an engineer who fled Baghdad after the bombing raids started, as saying he rushed outside when he heard bombs falling Jan. 20 in an Najaf, 150 kilometres south of Baghdad.

When he arrived at his cousin's home, Al Habboubi said he found it had received a direct hit. Iraqi officials said 13 of the 14 people inside were among the 35 victims of the attack. The sole survivor, the owner of the house, is still reported to be in a coma.

Airman

(Continued from page 1)

prisoners had been hit in "enemy air raids" Monday and Tuesday.

Iraq said last week that it was moving some of its 20 or more allied prisoners to strategic sites. The United States condemned the action as a "war crime."

The allies have lost 19 aircraft in combat since the air campaign against Iraq was launched Jan. 17. They say 22架架 have gone missing, including 11 known to have been captured by the Iraqis. The POWs have been seven Americans, two Britons, an Italian and a Kuwaiti.

The latest Iraqi communiques reported a two-pronged attack on the Saudi-Iraqi border and another penetration, apparently less significant, on Saudi Arabia's border with Kuwait.

A military communiqué broadcast by Baghdad Radio, the 28th of the 13-day-old war, said on Tuesday that six more "aerial targets" — planes or cruise missiles — were shot down since Monday afternoon.

Reporting its own Monday night Saudi attack on Saudi Arabia, the Iraqi command said it had aimed at "enemy positions and assembly points ... inflicting significant human and equipment losses on the aggressors."

A missile strike at Israel, also Monday, was directed at "dens of the enemy and the descendants of the dear land of Palestine in the city of Tel Aviv," it said.

Reports from the other side say Monday's Saudi destroyed greenhouses near Riyadh and showered fragments on villages in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. No casualties were reported.

IRNA, the official news agency of Iran, reported that allied air raids overnight set ablaze a petrochemical plant at the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

Smoke from the fire in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, blanketed Khormusheh, about 40 kilometres east across the border. "The billowing smoke speaks of heavy damage on the complex," IRNA said.

Relying reports it said came from Kurds in northern Iraq, Iran said the allies inflicted heavy damage on the airport and radio and television station in northern oil city of Kirkuk, 230 kilometres north of Baghdad.

IRNA quoted Mohammad Baquer Hakim, an Iran-based Iraqi opposi-

a slight majority in Iraq and the vast majority in Iran, veneer him.

Deeb reported that despite the bombing raids, some shops in Baghdad were still providing food and necessities, but homes and hotels were without electricity.

Arnett said Sunday that he had been told by Iraqi authorities that the city power grid is down, but electricity should be restored to most of the city soon.

(Jordan Times). Reporter Lamis Andoni, in an account published Saturday, said that "people were scooping water from the Tigris for washing and cooking."

"Remarkably, food supplies do not yet appear to have been seriously affected," she wrote in Saturday's Jordan Times.

Arnett said Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council announced Saturday that authorities will "begin issuing gasoline, may be 10 gallons every 15 days to all registered

motorists, three times more to trucks."

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, told Britain's Independent Television News in a Sunday interview from Geneva: "We are informed through a number of people who have come to Iran from Iraq that the situation there for the people is absolutely terrible."

"There is no communication. People do not know whether their relatives have died or are alive," he said.

Arnett said he was taken to a Baghdad hospital earlier Sunday, and was told by the chief surgeon that the stocks of blood, antibiotics and other medical supplies had been depleted as a result of the allied bombing.

But Andoni said that even after the allied bombing campaign began, people were still optimistic.

"They seem more confident. 'We feel great. We're holding up,'" they would say.

Gulf war hits South Africa

By Rodney Pinder

Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — The Gulf war has hit South Africa's apartheid divide with explosive force, driving whites and blacks deeper into their racial bunkers.

But — just as in the Middle East — it has also brought together some strange bedfellows.

The black left and the white far right, who disagree on almost everything, have found common cause in their opposition to U.S.-led action against Iraq.

Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela's militant wife Winnie, a fighter against white domination in her own right, demanded the United States should get out of the Gulf.

The pro-apartheid white supremacist Boerestaat Party added a hearty hear-hear, with the wish Iraq will thoroughly thrash the allied forces.

Mostly, however, South Africa, as usual, has split along racial lines.

Whites cheered President George Bush while the black and Asian communities on the other side of the apartheid divide lined up behind President Saddam Hussein.

The white government offered America its support, including the use of bases and ports on the strategic Cape Sea route, while blacks and Asians, who outnumber whites by five-to-one, demonstrated across the country in favour of Iraq.

A survey by the mass-circulation Star newspaper reported most readers lining up according to their ethnic backgrounds.

From the non-white side came a call for "one American, one bullet" from reader M. Moosa, adapting the "one settler, one bullet" rallying cry of South Africa's radical anti-apartheid Pan African Congress.

It added: "All the dems and interests of the Americans and their Western allies, and the (Arab) Nation's traitors and agents will be targets of the heroic fighters and their painful strikes."

H. Ismail said Bush had been

"driven insane by the smell of oil" and Krishna Desai called him "the real Hitler."

But white reader Allan Adams said Bush "did the right thing" and William Peters said the allies are "fighting for a free world."

One Muslim leader said he had mustered 10,000 volunteers to fight for Iraq and requested government help to travel north. No reply was immediately forthcoming but it was understood the government would not cooperate.

Ameen Akhalwaya, editor of the anti-apartheid newspaper Indicator and self-described "Muslim, black South African and 60s peacenik," wrote: "If you're white, chances are you'll regard Bush as the good guy and Hussein as the bad guy, and vice-versa if you're black."

He explained: "Many black South Africans ... suspect that the Western allies are all too ready to go to war against people who are not white..."

"If 'just' wars and liberation for democracy were the criteria, why did the Americans and the British refuse to impose sanctions, much less go to war, when apartheid forces occupied Namibia for so long?"

"Many black South Africans ask why the Americans and the British were so reluctant to impose sanctions, never mind go to war, to help them reclaim the 87 per cent of South Africa they insist was being occupied illegally by what they call settlers."

Political scientist Willem Kleynhans says many blacks subscribe to the view that "my enemy's enemy is my friend."

"The United States is identified with whites and they (the blacks) will never forget what they have suffered at the hands of the whites," he said.

Ecopolitical Forum

Bush's personal war not that of America

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

IN the very early days following the rolling of Iraqi forces into Kuwait, an outraged Mr. Bush branded President Saddam as "mad." Ever since he could not afford to hold his tongue and thus released a stream of odd words which contributed to the disruption of all channels of dialogue which would have been indispensable for any peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis (and to any other crises). It was abundantly clear that the American president lost his nerves. Subsequent and present events, as well as testimonies of Western celebrities such as Mr. Edward Heath, British MP Antony Benn and W. Brandt proved not only that the steel-nerved Saddam Hussein was not mad but also that he was clever and shrewd as much as any human being can ever be. Now with the Gulf crisis coming to this most horrible juncture, it is high time for the Americans to check and see whether Mr. Bush is sane enough to be their president. The man who lost his nerves might well have lost his senses. The Gulf crisis has been an extremely rough ride with which the toughest of men may, understandably, crumble. It is difficult to believe that the man who takes the decision of a war like the present one can really be sensible or sane. True, the American president was bombarded by a ruthless, fierce and constant media instigation to destroy Iraq but none of the reasons and justifications given were American. The Israelis had a very good reason; the Kuwaitis had an even better one. Some Arabs and public relations firms had a variety of good reasons as well but none of the reasons was American.

The entry of Iraqi forces into Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990 was a culmination of a dispute which was not possible thereto to solve through peaceful means. The logical, sensible and responsible response of the head of the world superpower should have been to look into the roots and causes of that dispute and try to solve it peacefully on the basis of giving every party its legitimate rights. It is only through such an approach that grievances can be redressed and the

Baghdad in a perspective of time

By Jabra L. Jabra

The following is an excerpt from a book written by the above author entitled 'A Celebration of Life: Essays on Literature and Art' published in 1987.

Whether it was an accident of history, or the resultant of a multiplicity of forces — geographical, climatic, ethnic and other wise — it is certain that Sumer, in the Southern part of Iraq, brought about the first great civilisation of man more than 5000 years ago. Man's first cities rose on the great fertile plains around the Tigris and Euphrates; and the first human questioning about the complex relationship between man, God and the world started and developed in those very cities. NO wonder, then, that an ancient legend should arise that Adam was created in a Garden of Eden placed exactly where Sumer had flourished. A sense of a primordial order of existence took shape in man's collective memory associated with the cities and plains of Sumer.

The city of Babylon was a historical extension of Ur, Eridu, Uruk, but also a culmination and a crowning of them. In time, the nations that flourished in steady succession in the valley of the two rivers could not remember when Babylon, on the middle Euphrates, had actually been built. It had already become the archetypal city, the symbol of all that man had collectively accomplished by a combination of work, knowledge, and divine intervention. It was said that the gods had built it, and its very name meant the "gate of the Gods." There was a time when it was the centre of an empire, its rulers having achieved domination over most of the inhabited world known then, and there was a time when the centre shifted to other cities in the north. But at no time, over two thousand years or more, did it once lose its prominence as a city favoured by the gods. Even when the Assyrians had their capital in Ashur, or Calah, or Nineveh, Babylon was accorded a special governance. Nabopolassar at last, having destroyed Nineveh in 612 B.C., reinstated Babylon as the first among the cities of the ancient world, and his son Nebuchadnezzar made it the first and certainly the greatest cosmopolitan capital of a far-flung empire.

Babylon, in fact, was the first metropolis in history, the outward-oriented city of pluralities, capable of holding together in a viable and dynamic form a vast number of disparate elements, both human and cultural. Different races, religions, languages, all living together under the protection of one central organisation and one dominant culture. Under Nebuchadnezzar the wealth and the knowledge of most of the nations of the world poured into his city, only to be expended and remoulded by Babylonian creative genius, then redistributed throughout the world. Twenty centuries earlier, the ziggurat of Mesopotamia had become a focus of human attention: Egypt's pyramids and temples had been inspired by them. Babylon's ziggurat, known as the Tower of Babylon, was the final fruit of all such structures: a radial point of human knowledge and enquiry, in the middle of a city that had become the wonder of the world. Mathematics, astronomy, metallurgy, manual crafts and literary arts, all reached a high point of development locally and were taught to the world at large. Religion, complex and diversified, was an operative force in art, in architecture as well as in government and the dispensation of justice. Babylonian myth gave man a sense of belonging within a universe that had thus become less incomprehensible. Man at last had come to grips with history.

When Cyrus came from the east and conquered Babylon in 539 B.C., he called himself King of Babylon. But the essence of the city escaped him: what he and his descendants actually did was to tear the city at the roots. When Alexander of Macedon sought some two hundred years later to make Babylon the capital of his empire, it was too late: the city was mostly in ruins: It was there in the flesh, at least partly so, but the spirit had gone out of it completely...

For the real sources of Babylon's miraculous existences lies in the peoples who had been coming up constantly, in wave after wave, from the vast regions of the Arabian peninsula. Once this flow of energy was halted, as was the case around 500 B.C., Mesopotamia shrivelled up into insignificant colonies under foreign rulers. Every now and then an Arabian Hatta or Palmyra would erupt in refuge almost out of the sands, as it were, and in two or three centuries fall down upon its foundations, again sapped of the energy that had fed it from the Arabian source.

Babylon is thus not only the first great metropolis, but the actual mother of all subsequent great cities of history. In their pluralism, in their drive as the perpetrators and disseminators of human knowledge and progress, Paris, London, New York, Moscow are in actual fact the offspring of Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. Even more significant for Arab history is that Baghdad of the Abbasids was the real legitimate of this magnificent mother of all great cities. Babylon had to wait for nearly twelve centuries to find itself at last resurrected in full brilliance some eighty kilometres away, on the banks of the Tigris. Another wave of human energy had woken up from Arabia and broken mightily on Mesopotamian shores. Baghdad emerged, almost overnight, from the same alluvial plain. Its Babylonian roots come to life again, and in a few years it was the wonder city of the world where, exactly like its forebear, the wealth and knowledge of mankind poured, to be enlarged and remoulded, then distributed throughout the world.

Even building Baghdad as a round city was not an alien concept for Iraq. Several round cities have been unearthed by archaeologists, dating back to various periods, especially Assyrian. Hatta was round also, and so was Wasit, south of Baghdad, which the Arabs had built some sixty years earlier. But Baghdad excelled them all in size and ordered shape.

Abbasid Baghdad was therefore the embodiment of the same

forces that had once made Babylon, and that later made the great cities of modern times.

Historically, it occupies a central position on the line of man's development and intellectual achievement. Culturally, the huge wealthy capitals of today hark back to Baghdad of the eighth and ninth centuries, with the difference that Baghdad then was indeed solitary in its splendour, with Byzantium falling some distance behind.

According to al Khatib al Baghdadi, it was thus described by al Jatib, the great encyclopaedic thinker of the ninth century.

"I have seen the great cities, noted for their excellent construction, in the lands of Syria and Byzantium as well as other countries, but I have never seen a city lovelier in structure, better in roundness, nobler in dimensions or wider in gateways than al Zawra, al Mansour's city: it is as if it had been cast in a mould, or chiseled out like a sculpture."

In studying the thought and the arts of the Abbasid capital of 1000 years ago one could see much of the same motivation, drive and conflicts that are at work in the implosive cities of our century. But when one of its inhabitants, Baghdad's remarkable historian al Khatib al Baghdadi (A.D.1072), wrote about it in the middle of the eleventh century — that is, nearly three hundred years after its foundation by al Mansour — it is with much pain that he writes its glory as a thing of bygone times. He says, in the past tense:

"Baghdad had no equal in the world in prominence, in excellence, in the number of its scholars and famed men, in the distribution of its elite and its commoners, in the size of its domains and the large number of its houses, dwellings, roads, peoples, quarters, markets, highways and byways, mosques and baths, aims and fashions of dress. It had no equal for the sweetness of its air, the freshness of its water, the coolness of its shades, the temperance of its summer and winter, the healthiness of its spring and autumn or the great number of its inhabitants whenever counted. It was at its best in buildings and people in the days of Harun al-Rashid, when the world was cool and stable wherever one stayed, generous in giving, fertile in field, crowded in public places..."

Baghdad's superiority is seen by al Baghdadi when his city was under the rule of its Arab Caliphs and leaders before they gradually lost their real power to non-Arabs, who later assumed authority over the capital in their name. With painful regret he goes on to say:

"Then it fell victim to sedition, and one disaster after another befall its people; its buildings were ruined and its inhabitants abandoned.

But Ahmad ibn Wadih al Yacoubi, who pre-dated al Baghdadi by nearly two centuries, had seen Baghdad in its hey-day in the ninth century, a little over a hundred years after its foundation. When he wrote about it in his Book of Cities, he described it as a thing of intense presence and vivid magnificence:

"The great city which has no equal east or west for area, width or construction, for plentiful water or salubrious air. As it has been inhabited by all kinds of people from other lands and other towns, who flock to it from distant horizons have preferred it to their own native lands, so much so that there is no country which has not in Baghdad some of its people with a living quarter or a trading spot or a working centre of their own. Baghdad has become the gathering place of things and men like no other city in the world. And because of its temperance of air, goodness of earth and freshness of water, its inhabitants have become so pleasant in disposition, healthy in looks and inventive in minds that they excell all people in learning, understanding and culture; in intellect and judgement; in trades, professions and the arts of earning; in skillful debate, good workmanship and the mastering of every craft. Therefore no scholar is more learned than their scholars, no narrator better informed than their narrators; their philosophers are the best in argument; their linguists the best in knowledge, their readers the most accurate, their physicians the highest in skill, their singers the cleverest, their craftsmen the most delicate their writers the most expressive, their scholars the most articulate, their worshippers the most worshipful, their hermits the most pious, their judges the most conversant in law, their orators the most oratorical, their poets the most poetic, even their prostitutes the most extravagant..."

It is easy to conclude from this detailed description, which lists almost every aspect of society, that Baghdad was then the greater extension of ancient Babylon, preserving the same cultural essence which was to be a distinguishing feature of the large cities of later times. It was the essence embodied in the pluralism of a comprehensive Arab ethos given its unifying force by the genius of the Arabic language. The essence was also embodied in the uniqueness of Arab craftsmen, artists, scholars, thinkers and their superiority to all others everywhere else.

It is this essence which was soon under threat. In fact, it gradually got lost when the city "fell victim to sedition and one disaster after another befall its people; its buildings were ruined and its inhabitants abandoned it." It was the beginning of the long dark night that fell upon the city through its invaders and foreign rulers, when its essence, the secret of its being, was overlaid for centuries, until at last it was retrieved and reactivated by its people in our times.

This civilisational essence is now coming back into its own again. As it regains its prominence one would like to envision how in the next quarter of a century Baghdad will regain its original position in the context of human development and progress.

The city will expand to be two hundred times the size of Mansour's city, reverting to its circular form once more, but open all around; the 5sq.km. city planned by al Mansour in A.D. 762 will be more than 1000 sq.km. in area.

Planners will show much skill and imagination in drawing up its streets, buildings, markets, residential quarters — at least that is what we shall expect and insist upon as we join forces with its International Planning Organisations. The city's dynamism seems constantly to challenge the energy and vision of such planners; no less than four Master Plans have been made for the city since the late fifties, and Baghdad has yet to be given its due. It goes to show that planners must always renew their vision and re-feed their imagination by its sheer energy.

It population will grow to size unprecedented even under Harun al-Rashid; it will hit the eight million mark, which approximates the average of the great world capitals of today.

And yet one would like to imagine that Baghdad will remain, despite its magnitude, a place where man does not lose his human scale, where he can find his privacy when he wants it, as he can also find his happiness, his freedom, his dignity. Such are the characteristics of the great city in which, however high it rises and however far it expands, man himself must remain the master in harmony with his own daily creativity and yet in reasonable balance with a society helped by him to be in control of its technology.

One can see Baghdad receiving an endless flow of sciences and arts which it doubles with its own contribution and redistributes throughout the world, as proud of its palourism as its great mother Babylon once was, and as inventive as Baghdad itself used to be a thousand years ago when it wrought man's progress in matter and in

Oil slick

(Continued from page 1)

Agriculture

Experts also say that very expensive agricultural projects, in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, could suffer from polluted water.

"Agricultural growth could be affected adversely," said Dr. Hashweh, pointing out that Saudi Arabia invested six to seven per cent of its gross domestic product in agriculture and fish production annually. The Gulf states, which depend heavily on fish food for their protein, have invested only two per cent of their gross domestic product; they are likely to suffer adverse effects on their agriculture if the slick continues.

A Saudi spokesman announced Tuesday that the oil slicks had already killed 32 dugongs, 500 turtles and 15,000 sea snakes.

Experts have suggested a variety of solutions as to how to deal with the slick and Arab, Norwegian, British and Japanese help has already been forwarded; but not all solutions seem ideal.

Some solutions of nature, according to experts, are that part of the oil film will evaporate upon exposure to air and sun.

If there is a lot of wind, experts say, then there will be mixing and parts of the oil may clot together and thus slowly go down to the bottom of the sea.

With time, months or possibly years, bacteria will detoxify and remove oil from water.

On the other hand man can help nature by protecting beaches and installations for water intake, as the Saudis have already done in part by building protective devices (booms), to prevent the flow of oil on the surface of these areas.

Another "man-made" solution would be to partially destroy the oil film by the addition of highly active surface agents (chemical dispersants) that will bind the oil and bring it down to the bottom. But this treatment can also prove to be at least partially toxic.

Allied military sources said Tuesday that military action had stemmed the flow of crude oil flowing into the Gulf. But industrial sources said that crude oil continues to flow into the Gulf.

Gulf environment officials are saying that most of the slick was still in Kuwait waters and that the oil was moving down the Saudi coast at a speed of five kilometres a day, down from 24 kilometres a

day Sunday.

While American and Iraqi officials accuse each other of starting the environmental disaster, some governments and organisations were already on their way to try and clean up the "mess".

A team from Britain's Southampton oil spill response centre was already on its way to the Gulf with a collection of skimmers and boats.

The Norwegian government, which has experience in fighting oil spills, has also offered its help in mopping up the oil spill.

Japan's prime Minister told his parliament Monday that Japan was also considering sending equipment and experts to contain the oil slick.

Chevenement

(Continued from page 1)

Western diplomats said the resignation was a blow to Mr. Mitterrand, who has won overwhelming public support for his Gulf policies. Chevenement's positions had become increasingly embarrassing for Mr. Mitterrand, who is seeking a firm line on the Gulf war, they added.

France, a member of the U.S.-led alliance which went to war against Iraq Jan. 17, has sent more than 10,000 troops and warplanes to the Gulf.

Its last-minute attempts to find a peaceful solution aroused criticism from French conservatives and from allied governments that it was giving mixed signals to its allies and encouraging Iraq's belief that the U.S.-led coalition was weak.

French warplanes at first attacked Iraqi targets in Kuwait, but Mr. Mitterrand last week approved sorties by French jets into Iraq like those carried out by

the U.S. and British air forces. Max Gallo, a Chevenement spokesman, said Mr. Chevenement's decision to step down was remarkable.

"The decision shows that there are a lot of questions... on the aims of the war and where the logic of war is taking us compared with what was approved by the Security Council and the French parliament," Gallo said.

"Do we still have the same aim, the liberation of Kuwait, or are we now in favour of the total destruction of Iraq? Are we for the reshaping of the Middle East with a single gendarmerie?"

Tuesday's resignation was Mr. Chevenement's second. He resigned as industry minister in Mr. Mitterrand's first Socialist government in 1983 in protest against economic austerity measures.

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Schillaci may be dropped by Juventus

By Reuter

SALVATORE Schillaci, top scorer at the World Cup in Italy last year but with a meagre tally of league goals since then, is in danger of being dropped by Juventus Sunday.

"Toto" was suspended for the Turin team's match against newly-promoted Parma last weekend and the fact that he won 5-0 without him has posed something of a selection problem.

"The first thing that has to be said is that I'm pleased with the way Schillaci has been playing..." coach Gigi Maifredi said, while wondering where to place the Sicilian striker.

"Anyway, in this Juventus side, there are many good players. All of them can end up on the subs' bench," he said.

The last time Juventus won a league match 5-0 — against Roma last November — Schillaci came good and plundered his willingness to play against Genoa but was dropped.

With or without Schillaci, Juventus should have too much

firepower for Atalanta who are carrying three consecutive losses, the last a 4-1 thrashing by Bari.

Atalanta now have a new coach, Bruno Giorgi, appointed on Tuesday to succeed Pier Luigi Frosio.

AC Milan's off-form Dutch striker Marco Van Basten also has no guarantee of starting Sunday at home to bottom of the table Cesena due to an apparent rift with the club.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

The Dutch striker, voted the European Footballer of the Year in 1988 and 1989, missed Milan's last two matches and club sources suggested he had personally requested not to play.

However, the Italian sports newspaper *Gazzetta dello Sport* reported Tuesday that Van Basten had indicated his willingness to play against Genoa but was dropped.

In the meantime, Van Basten's Italian replacement, Daniele

Massaro, has scored in the last two games.

The other two little contenders, leaders Internazionale Milan and joint second-placed Sampdoria, have hard tasks.

Inter play Bologna while Sampdoria, buoyed by the possible return from injury of their 35-year-old Brazilian midfielder Cerezo, face a Fiorentina side beaten in its last seven games.

In Spain, Real Madrid's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez is doubtful for their clash with fourth-placed Seville because of a leg injury sustained in Sunday's 3-0 victory over Castellon.

League-leaders Barcelona, who crushed Espanol 5-2 at the weekend, also have a doubt over striker Julio Salinas, who has an ankle ligament strain. He will miss two days training and could be out of Sunday's match at Valencia.

But better news for Barcelona came with the return to light training of Dutch defender Ronald Koeman, out for the past three months after an Achilles tendon operation.

Minter upsets Meshki in Auckland Classic

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Australian Anne Minter crushed top seed and defending champion Leila Meshki of the Soviet Union 6-4, 6-2 Tuesday in the first round of the \$100,000 Nutri-Metics Classic International Tennis Tournament.

Meski had to pull out of the Australian Open with influenza and showed her lack of match fitness against a determined Minter.

"It was difficult for me to play someone who has already been playing matches when I had two days' practice," Meshki said.

Dutch qualifier Petra Kamstra ousted no. 6 seed Ann Grossman of the United States 4-6, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 after saving two match points, while German teenager Barbara Rittner upset third-seeded American Gretchen Mager 6-2, 7-5, 6-1.

Grossman led Kamstra by a set, 5-4 and 40-15 but then slumped.

Rittner, a semifinalist in the junior championship of the Australian Open, saved a break point at 5-5 in the second set and then broke Mager in the next game to win the set 7-5. She won the decisive set easily.

Australia plays Belgium in Davis Cup

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Australian Davis Cup tennis captain Neale Fraser warned his team Tuesday not to underestimate Belgium in the first round match beginning Friday on the grass courts of Royal King's Park.

Australia is the No. 2 seed after losing to the United States in last year's final. Belgium is making its World Group debut and has no grass court players.

"If you cast your minds back to the first round last year, there were four upsets in the first round," Fraser said Tuesday.

"We don't want to be in that category this year."

"This is a World Group tie and we'll be treating Belgium as though we were playing the United States in the final."

Australia will be without former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, who has opted to practice in Europe, but will be represented by Richard Fromberg, Darren Cahill, Wally Masur and new member Todd Woodbridge.

Fraser said current form would be the guideline in selecting the two players for the singles.

Navratilova sounds challenge to young stars

HONG KONG (R) — After a bit of tinkering with her body and her game during the longest lay-off in her career, a new, improved Martina Navratilova has re-emerged on the women's tennis scene with a challenge to the young brigade.

"I was beginning to feel old but after the operation on my knees I feel 10 years younger," said the durable 34-year-old after her first competitive match in two months.

"I am healthier than I have been for many years."

U.S. Open champion Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, beaten in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open by Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario last week, was the first victim of the rejuvenated Navratilova, going down 6-3, 6-4 in a challenge match played in Hong Kong Monday.

"For a first match after two months off she was pretty good," said Sabatini, the 20-year-old world number four, almost grudgingly.

That understands it. An exhibition match it may have been, but Navratilova used the occasion to signal emphatically that she was back and in vintage form.

Sabatini had no answer to a re-modelled serve and the wonderful array of shots that gained the American a record ninth Wimbledon title last year.

Before the match Navratilova had been apprehensive. "I woke up with knots in my stomach," she acknowledged.

Despite apparently winning the battle against age, Navratilova has set herself realistic goals for 1991.

She skipped the Australian Open won by world number two Monica Seles of Yugoslavia and will miss the French Open to concentrate on taking her Wimbledon singles haul into double figures.

She also plans to play in the U.S. Open.

"I still find tennis a challenge.

I'm still learning to play better tennis and while I'm competitive and enjoying it I will continue to play," she said before flying to Japan for the Pan-Pacific Open.



Martina Navratilova

"As for Wimbledon, I believe I can win a 10th title. If I did not believe that, I would not play there."

"I've already got the record, so I will not be worrying about it when I go on court. There will be less pressure."

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles;
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four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

AS WELL AS

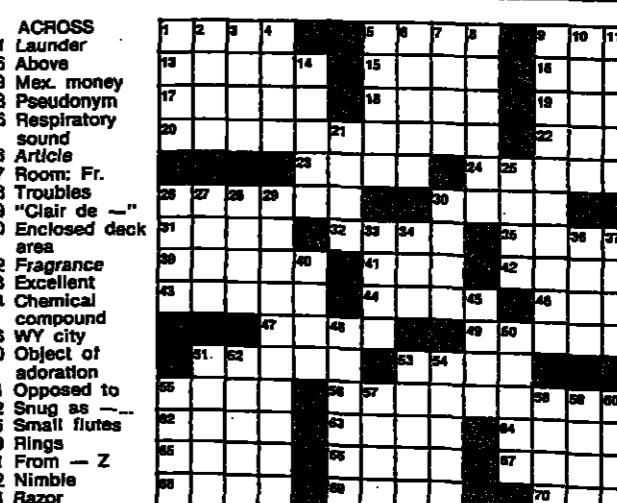
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: BAKED AFOOT RADIUM VERMIN

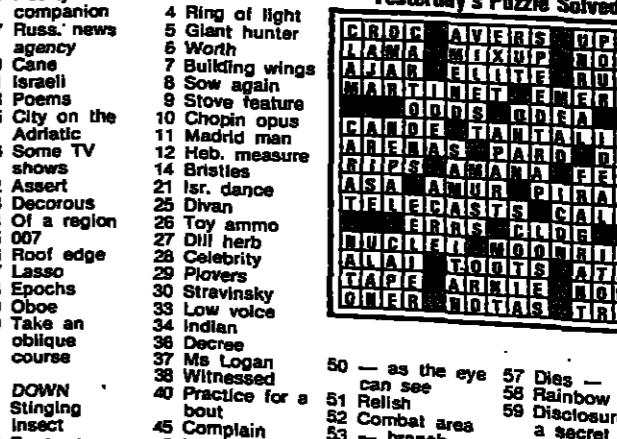
Answer: What the sailor shouted when he saw the surfer—MAN "OVER BOARD"

THE Daily Crossword

by Dorothy B. Martin

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

Forest dumps Palace out of F.A. Cup

LONDON (R) — A burst of three goals in 11 minutes finally took Nottingham Forest into the fourth round of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup at the expense of visitors Crystal Palace Monday.

Midfielder Garry Parker broke

the deadlock after 50 minutes in the third round second replay when he slotted home after good work by England midfielder Steve Hodge.

Parker hammered a superb second three minutes later and winger Gary Crosby rounded off

the deadlocked after 50 minutes in the third round second replay when he slotted home after good work by England midfielder Steve Hodge.

The sides drew 0-0 in the first game and Palace grabbed a 2-2 in the replay last week with a dramatic late equaliser.

Three other attempts to stage the game in Nottingham were frustrated by bad weather.

Forest now travel to meet second division Newcastle United in a fourth round tie to be played on Feb. 11.

Fraser said current form would be the guideline in selecting the two players for the singles.

In an all-Japanese match, Kimiko Date beat no. 8 Naoko

Sawamatsu 6-4, 7-5.

Anke Huber of Germany beat Australian Elizabeth Smylie 6-1, 6-4.

Qualifier Alycia May, ranked 321st in the world, upset fellow American Marianne Werdel, ranked 40th, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3.

Qualifier Mana Endo of Japan beat Andrea Leand of the United States 2-6, 6-4, 6-3 in one hour, 50 minutes.

American Peanut Louise Harper overwhelmed Japanese wild card entry Akiko Kijimuta 6-4, 6-2.

The top seeds had a first round bye and will play their first matches Wednesday.

They are no. 1 Steffi Graf of Germany, the defending champion; no. 2 Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, winner of the Australian Open last week; no. 3 Martina Navratilova of the United States, returning to tournament play after knee surgery; no. 4 Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, and no. 5 Gabriela

Sabatini of Argentina.

First prize is \$70,000.

AOUITA PULLS OUT OF 3 indoor track events

When he recuperates, he will return home to Morocco," Schmertz said.

Aouita had been scheduled to compete in the Millrose Games Friday night at Madison Square Garden, the Mobil 1 Invitational Sunday at Fairfax, Virginia, and the Meadowlands Invitational on Feb. 8 at East Rutherford, New Jersey.

"He is scratched for the indoor season," Schmertz said Monday.

Aouita, who holds world outdoor records at distances from 1,500 metres to 5,000 metres, became ill while training in Mex-

ico City.

"When he recuperates, he will return home to Morocco," Schmertz said.

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Aouita, who holds world outdoor records at distances from 1,500 metres to 5,000 metres, became ill while training in Mex-

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"When he recuperates, he will return home to Morocco," Schmertz said.

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Economy

EC lends Greece \$3b

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers said Monday that they had agreed to lend about 2.2 billion European Currency Units (\$3 billion) to Greece to help rescue its struggling economy.

"Ministers agreed in principle that medium-term financial assistance to the balance of payments, of the order of 2.2 billion European Currency Unit (ECUs) would be made available to Greece," the EC said in a statement issued after their one-day meeting.

The first tranche of the loan, comprising about one billion ECUs (\$1.4 billion) would be disbursed as soon as a final decision on the deal was reached when ministers next meet on Feb. 25.

Further tranches would be disbursed in the light of the implementation of the Greek government's tough economic programme, the statement said.

Luxembourg Finance Minister Jean-Claude Juncker said the Greek government's request for the loan had been granted after difficult discussions lasting several months.

"In the spirit of solidarity, the Community cannot turn a deaf ear to this appeal," Juncker said.

EC commissioners for economic affairs, Heman Christopher, said the decision showed that "we are prepared to decide problems within the family."

Greece's budget deficit and inflation are the highest in the Community at 18.4 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and 22.8 per cent respectively.

Athens has a budget plan to bring the deficit down to 16.6 per cent and inflation to 17 per cent this year, the report said.

German bankers say S. Africa may return to capital markets

BONN (R) — South Africa, shunned on world capital markets for six years, believes it has improved its image enough to allow public issues of debt abroad, German bankers said Tuesday.

They said Pretoria intended to launch a government-backed bond issue in early autumn, but detailed talks had yet to open.

"We have been informed by the government and private borrowers that South Africa intends to come back to test the water this fall," one official at a large German bank said.

"We hope that within six months or so, South Africa will again be fit for good society," he said, adding that present banks were reluctant to conduct any deals publicly for fear of provoking an anti-apartheid backlash.

Much would depend on political developments, including progress in talks between President F.W. de Klerk, who has started to scrap apartheid, and African National Congress leader Nelson

Mandela.

A South African diplomat said final timing for a new bond issue would be set once the European Community (EC) abolished its sanctions against Pretoria. He said the EC move was expected at an EC summit set for June 14.

De Klerk is expected to end black exclusion from land ownership and residential segregation when parliament, which excludes the country's black majority, opens in February.

These two measures would fulfil the last two requirements set by the EC for lifting sanctions. Banks said the United States and Japan were also considering scrapping sanctions.

Until international banks ended new lending amid a black uprising in 1985, South Africa was viewed as an ideal capital market borrower, bankers said. Its payments were always on time and premiums were high.

They said many customers had

remained loyal to South African issues, enabling German banks to quickly and quietly place about 250 million marks (\$169 million) of bonds rescheduled for selected borrowers in private issues last year.

Reschedulings this year would rise to around 500 million marks (\$38 million).

South Africa had outstanding debts of 1.76 billion marks (\$1.19 billion) with German banks in September 1990, compared to around 1.37 billion marks (\$925 million) in 1985, according to German central bank statistics.

Calm slowly returns to Turkish markets

ISTANBUL (R) — The Gulf war has shaken Turkey's economy but confidence is slowly returning to the financial sector, bankers and businessmen said Tuesday.

"Things have slowed down. But we're fast gaining immunity against war," said Uzeyir Garib, chairman of private industrial conglomerate Alarko Holding.

"In the early days of the war we were all glued to the television, thinking Iraq could attack Turkey any time. We were too uninvolved to do business. But now the war has become part of our daily life," said an Ankara banker.

Showrooms stocked with cars and empty hotels and restaurants in Istanbul testify to the economic slowdown in frontline Turkey, a base for U.S. air raids on Iraq.

But financial markets have calmed following a short-lived panic on the eve of the Gulf war 12 days ago.

There was a run on deposits with Turks withdrawing some 5,000 billion lira (\$1.6 billion) from banks.

Central bank sources said half of the lira withdrawals had been returned in the past week.

Istanbul's emerging stock market ignored Baghdad's Jan. 23 charge that Turkey was responsible for "unjustified aggression" by allowing U.S. planes to bomb Iraq from a southern base. Since then, the stock market has been

Britain starts offensive to raise Gulf war cash

LONDON (R) — The British government in 1983 loaned 1.75 billion ECUs to Greece, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion then, with strings attached. But the conditions of reducing inflation and the budget deficit to below 10 per cent, were never met, leading some countries to demand stricter terms this time.

A commission report submitted to finance ministers for debate Monday was scathing about the Greek economy.

"The budgetary imbalance is clearly unsustainable and determined application of budgetary adjustment policies will need to be sustained over several years," the report said.

British officials have expressed bitterness over the low level of financial help being given to Britain. Its 35,000-man force in the Gulf is the second-biggest non-Arab contribution after that of the United States.

The sources did not say how much Britain was hoping to raise to offset its costs.

"Foreign and treasury (finance ministry) ministers will go to different places" to discuss extra contributions, an official said.

He said there were indications from other countries that they "recognised their responsibilities ... there has been a positive response but we have not got down to numbers yet."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont raised the issue with other EC finance ministers at a routine meeting in Brussels Monday and said he was hopeful more money could be raised.

Bush expected to shy away from quick-fixes for ailing economy

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush is expected in the coming weeks to unveil an array of measures to aid the U.S. economy in the long run, but little to lift it immediately from its recession, officials said Monday.

With the Gulf war dominating the headlines, Bush has escaped criticism for presiding over America's first economic downturn in eight years and is under little pressure to announce emergency measures in his State of the Union address Tuesday.

"The content (of the address) is dominated by the discussion of the Gulf conflict," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters.

"The speech will reflect the president's thinking on the conflict, what it means for the country, what it means for the economy and our domestic agenda as well," he added.

The White House has pinned the blame for the U.S. downturn squarely on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, arguing that his invasion of Kuwait sparked a rise in oil prices that tipped the economy into recession.

But Bush administration economists are hopeful that the economy will start to turn around by the middle of the year, aided by lower interest rates and oil prices as the uncertainty surrounding the Gulf crisis clears.

They said the administration is working on a series of measures — from proposals to strengthen the battered U.S. banking industry to more spending on research and development — to strengthen the economy in the longer term.

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1991

Bush is likely to argue Tuesday that last year's agreement to slash the deficit by \$500 billion over five years will put the economy on a sounder footing and enhance long-term growth.

Senior administration officials have sought to downplay the impact of the Gulf war on the budget deficit, saying that America's wealthy allies will pick up much of the tab.

"We expect this to be (financially) manageable because we expect to have very substantial foreign contributions," Bush's chief economic advisor, Michael Boskin, said earlier this month.

Besides, with U.S. budget deficit expected to balloon to more than \$300 billion this fiscal year, the administration has little room to manoeuvre, analysts said.

"We have a serious deficit problem that will have to be the subject of focus of the speech," Fitzwater said.

"The president will try make sure that any economic policies or initiatives are proposed will be good for the long term, not just short-term palliatives," Bush's chief economic advisor, Michael Boskin, said earlier this month.

Besides, with U.S. budget deficit expected to balloon to more than \$300 billion this fiscal year, the administration has little room to manoeuvre, analysts said.

"We have a surplus of economic policy if anything argues for a tax cut, not a tax increase."

Santos said the airline had been suffering losses since November due to high fuel and insurance costs.

The Manila Bulletin has reported that operating costs of Asian airlines have increased by eight to 12 per cent because of higher fuel and insurance costs. PAL's difficulties have been aggravated by a scarcity of foreign exchange.

The airline's losses in November totalled \$87.41 million pesos (\$29.9 million). It posted a net income of \$28.85 million pesos (\$10.32 million) from April to August.

Santos declined to give figures for the airline's losses, saying competitors "would just love to know how much we are losing."

He did say the cancellation of the Middle East flights alone accounted for a 30 per cent loss in total income.

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Superpower summit delay is warning to Gorbachev — reformer

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The U.S.-Soviet summit delay will warn Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that his new hard line threatens to restore the cold war and jeopardises his accomplishments, a leading Soviet reformer said Tuesday.

"I think this can be a very strong signal for our president and for our rulers in general that the result of their turn back can be a restoration of the cold war," Moscow Deputy Mayor Sergei Stankevich said in interview. State-owned news media reported but did not immediately comment on the decision by U.S. President George Bush and Gorbachev to postpone the scheduled Feb. 11-13 Moscow summit.

Stankevich said that by postponing the summit, the United States in effect was warning Soviet hardliners that "almost all of the fruits from the previous period, including the peace dividend, can be sacrificed in favour of their ideological triumph."

"This price is too high, even unbearable for our society, because to start a new round of the arms race, to start a new period of cold war, is unbearable economically and impossible politically," said Stankevich, interviewed in the ornate white room at Moscow City Hall.

Radio Moscow reported in a morning newscast that "due to the war in the Gulf, Mr. Bush must remain in Washington. And besides, work on the strategic

arms reduction treaty requires more time."

The radio also noted that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said he and Bush did discuss the Baltics issue at length with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in Washington but that it was not a reason for the postponement.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Bessmertnykh "spoke about President Gorbachev's efforts to resolve the emerging problems by means of dialogue and in the interest of perestroika..."

"Hasty assessments and statements in the West do not help. They contradict the task of retaining perestroika and developing new constructive elements in international relations," TASS reported Bessmertnykh as saying.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis told reporters in Vilnius Monday night that he hoped the failure to cite the Baltic crackdown postponing the summit would not encourage the military to take new steps against Lithuania.

"It is not so important what person is named," Landsbergis said. "It is more important what reasons are in mind, and whether they have these reasons in mind or not will be seen in the results."

"I hope that such a formulation (in the official statement) will not encourage the Soviet military to take new aggressive action ..." he said.

Stankevich said that for several months Gorbachev has paid less attention to his reforms than to winning the loyalty of hardliners in the Communist Party, armed forces and KGB who fear and oppose the changes he began when he came to power in March 1985.

Soviet generals, bitter over arms cuts, the withdrawal from Eastern Europe and efforts to trim their budgets, have been angered by the war in the Gulf, in part because it pits the United States against a long-time Kremlin client, Iraq.

The war "is like dope for our enemies," he said explaining that it acted as a stimulant for them. Citing recent public comments by Soviet generals arguing for higher military spending and against Gorbachev's "new thinking" in foreign relations, Stankevich said the Soviet Union has an enormous army "considering our economic situation and our international situation, and this army tries to defend itself and preserve itself."

Meanwhile Latvian Foreign Minister Jānis Jurkans said Monday Western governments were clearly backing the Baltic republics against a feared Soviet military assault on their fledgling democracies.

Jurkans told Reuters that governments, including Britain, France and Sweden, he said.

had threatened Gorbachev with sanctions if troops crushed independence movements in Lithuania and Estonia.

Asked how those countries had helped, he said: "Just by sending a clear-cut message to Gorbachev that the situation in the Baltics is not obscured by the Gulf crisis and that the use of force against the democratic forces in the Baltics will not be tolerated.

"I understand economic sanctions and political sanctions will be applied to stop that."

He said Western governments had put forward this message through international organisations such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which groups Europe and North America in disarmament talks.

Jurkans was in Bonn with his Estonian and Lithuanian counterparts to press German leaders for continued backing against Moscow despite world attention on the Gulf war.

All three were received for the first time by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which Jurkans called a signal of Bonn's support for the pro-independence republics.

Moscow has begun pulling out about 380,000 troops from former East Germany under a treaty signed with united Germany last November that set a 1994 deadline for the withdrawal.

Tension has been high in the Baltic republic, which is seeking to regain independence from Moscow, since Soviet troops killed 13 unarmed Lithuanians while storming the Vilnius television tower on Jan. 13.

The pro-independence government of Lithuania has protested repeatedly at the activities of Soviet troops, who have seized buildings and carried out searches and identity checks.

Azubalis said Tautkus had been in a car that failed to stop immediately at a checkpoint near Vilnius on the road to Lithuania's second city of Kaunas.

Mandela, Buthelezi hope for peace

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Rival black leaders Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Buthelezi met Tuesday for the first time in almost 30 years with both leaders expressing hope they can end a bloody partisan war.

Smiling and laughing, Mandela and Buthelezi warmly shook hands and joked while posing for photographers at the start of peace talks. Delegates from Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Buthelezi's Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party shared in the smiles and laughter.

Asked if they were optimistic, both leaders replied, "we are hopeful."

Buthelezi added, "we are very hopeful, otherwise we would not be here."

The two leaders made speeches during the morning session stressing the need for political toleration and restraint by their followers. They said peace was vital to ensure the end of apartheid.

"We are different kinds of organisations. History however demands that we turn our differences into advantages for South Africa ... We must get on with the job of living together," Buthelezi said.

Mandela said the ANC accepted the rights of other political groups. "The ANC does not demand of the Inkatha Freedom Party complete agreement with our views," he said.

But both cautioned against any hopes of a quick breakthrough. Asked during a break how things were going, Buthelezi said, "neither he (Mandela) nor I can wave a magic wand ... I don't think one should be unrealistic optimistically."

The two leaders were to lead discussions later between Inkatha's 68-member delegation and some 20 ANC delegates.

The two sides are trying to end the bloody war between ANC and Inkatha supporters that has claimed some 6,000 lives in recent years and threatened political stability.

bility in South Africa.

President F.W. de Klerk has begun dismantling apartheid and promises to share power with the black majority. The possible end of white-minority rule has increased rivalry between black organisations jockeying for power.

Security outside the Royal Hotel, where the talks were held, was tight. Police armed with automatic weapons surrounded the building.

Some 100 Inkatha supporters, including some in Zulu tribal dress, peacefully demonstrated outside and cheered wildly when Buthelezi went over to greet him.

The meeting marked the first time Mandela and Buthelezi, who were close friends, had seen each other in almost three decades.

Mandela was freed from prison last February after 27 years for opposing the white-majority government.

While little of substance is likely to emerge from Tuesday's meeting, a friendly encounter between the country's two most powerful black leaders is seen as crucial to ending the fighting.

"We do not expect miracles from Tuesday's talks, but the mere fact these two leaders will be seen talking may cause sanity to prevail among their followers," said the black-oriented newspaper City Press.

If the fighting does not slacken, it will cast doubt on the ability of the two leaders to control their supporters.

"As far as I envisage, (the meeting) will be a contribution toward the lessening of violence," but will not stop the violence, said Inkatha official Thembu Khoza.

"It's one thing for the leaders to meet and shake hands, another to transfer the reconciliation down to grass-roots level," said ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma.

Pakistan disappointed at Washington's aid cut

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan said Tuesday it was disappointed the United States planned to cut aid by more than half even if Washington lifted a ban on assistance imposed because of doubts about Islamabad's nuclear programme.

"We are somewhat disappointed that the State Department has cut down the allocation that was to be given to Pakistan," a Foreign Ministry official said.

The U.S. State Department, in a letter to Congress, said it was cutting its assistance to \$217 million from around \$370 million promised before the aid halt last October.

All military and new economic assistance was suspended when President George Bush failed to certify that Pakistan did not have nuclear weapons as he was required to under a congressional amendment.

"They can reduce or even stop it altogether. We are not keen to run about for that," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on return from a Middle East tour Monday.

Pakistani ministers said at the weekend they were aware an aid cut was coming but did not regard it as disastrous.

Since taking office last November Sharif has promoted self-reliance, but talks are going on at Foreign Ministry level to try to get American aid restored.

He vowed Monday that the June 24 trial will go on as planned.

"While there were some irregularities, I'm going to follow the law which says that dismissal is too great a sanction," said Hoeveler. "I don't think the defendant has been hurt to the extent that he has been denied a fair trial."

But the judge also emphasised that the question was not closed. He said that he would review the matter as the case progressed if the defence could show him evidence of damage to their case caused by the phone recordings.

On another front, Noriega's defence attorneys confirmed they will remain on the case, in view of the Austrian government's release of \$1.6 million in frozen funds linked to their client.

More than \$18 million are still frozen in European banks, and the federal government has agreed to continue trying to get enough of that money released to pay Noriega's attorneys.

The defence says the \$1.6 million are already committed for past expenses, and they agreed to accept \$75 an hour — far less than the \$350 an hour that lead attorney Frank Rubino says he needs — from the federal government until more of their client's money is released. Only two attorneys — Rubino and co-counsel Jon May — will be covered by the government's fee arrangement.

If Pakistan cannot persuade Bush to accept its assurances that it is not developing nuclear weapons by about June, the prime minister said Pakistan's troops would stay in Saudi Arabia, adding: "The policy of the government of Pakistan comes from the government."

The Pakistani army chief likened the fierce allied bombing of Iraq to the tragedy of Karbala — one of the most potent events in Islamic history — when the Prophet Mohammad's grandson was martyred 14 centuries ago in what is now Iraq.

But Sharif said "I do not think that anyone can sympathise with this idea."

Fujimori mired in economic, political and social morass

LIMA (AP) — Six months after political newcomer Alberto Fujimori took over the presidency, he faces resurgent inflation, a hostile congress spreading leftist insurrections, and strained relations with Washington.

Some critics contend Fujimori's worst failure has been in fighting the country's rebels. "There is good and bad in the first six months of Fujimori's government," conservative columnist Manuel D'Ornellas wrote in the newspaper *Expreso*. "But there is unanimity only about the absolute failure of his anti-guerrilla strategy, or non-strategy."

One year ago, Fujimori was an agronomist with no national political following.

During the election campaign against novelist Mario Vargas Llosa, Fujimori tried to turn his Japanese ancestry into a political asset. Polls showed Peruvians admire Japan as a technological power, and Fujimori offered to bring Peru "technology" in a platform that was light on specifics.

After he came to power on July 28, Fujimori moved quickly to impose a severe austerity programme.

Now, six months later, the economic situation is brighter by some measures. President Alan Garcia, a centre-left populist, left Fujimori a country gripped by daily blackouts, food and fuel shortages, and an inflation rate of more than 60 per cent a month.

Hammer lost only to Phil Col-

lins in the Male Pop-Rock Artist and Album Categories.

Miss Jackson, who entered with five nominations, won favourite Female Artist in the categories of prop-rock, sonorhythm and blues, and dance-music. She faced strong competition from the likes of Paula Abdul, Mariah Carey, Madonna, Sinead O'Connor and Regina Belle.

Hammer, who had leading seven nominations, also won Best Single for U Can't Touch This and favourite Male Artist in the soul-rhythm and blues category, and favourite Artist and Album in the rap category.

It was the second-best showing by an artist in the history of the awards. Michael Jackson remains the all-time leader after winning seven competitive trophies and the Award of Merit in 1984.

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M.C. Hammer, Janet Jackson lead pack in music awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rapper M.C. Hammer dominated the 18th annual American Music Awards with five trophies while Janet Jackson picked up three awards in a ceremony marked by tributes to the armed forces overseas.

"I'd like to dedicate this award to the troops in the Gulf," Hammer said as he picked up his Soul-Rhythm and Blues Album Award for Please Hammer Don't Hurt 'Em."

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Lithuanian shot in the head at military checkpoint

VILNIUS, Soviet Union (R) — Soviet troops at a checkpoint in Lithuania shot and seriously wounded a 20-year-old man thought to be trying to avoid conscription into the army, a spokesman for the parliament of Lithuania said Tuesday.

Andrius Azubalis identified the man as Jonas Tautkus and said he had been shot in the back of the head after failing to stop immediately at an army checkpoint near the capital Vilnius Monday night.

Azubalis said Tautkus was thought to have been a draft dodger from Soviet troops sent to the rebel republic to catch deserters and reinforce conscription.

He was now in hospital suffering from severe brain damage.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis immediately condemned the army for the shooting.

All three were received for the first time by German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which Jurkans called a signal of Bonn's support for the pro-independence republics.

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COLUMN

Designer wins ovation for dazzling line

PARIS (R) — Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré presented his haute couture line for elite Paris fashion house Christian Dior Monday to an ovation that tore down the barriers of French chauvinism. Ferré, hired by Dior in 1989, has proven to the world of Paris haute couture that he is worthy of the legendary label.

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Security outside the Royal Hotel, where the talks were held, was tight. Police armed with automatic weapons surrounded the building.

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